

nished with long hairs towards the end; these sometimes descend beyond the heel, as in the ass.

According to M. David, the Chinese often give the *Mi-lou* the name of *Sseu-pou-siang*—that is to say, *the four* (characters) *which do not agree*, as they consider that the animal resembles the stag in its horns, the cow in its feet, the camel in its neck, and the mule or the ass in its tail. The author considers the characters of this animal to be so peculiar that it forms a new generic group, and he gives it the name of *Elaphurus Davidianus*.

The *Mi-lou* is of the size of a large stag; an adult male received by the Museum measures 1.30 metre to the withers; and larger individuals are often seen. The animal lives in herds in the imperial park at some distance from Pekin; it has been there for a long time; but the Chinese do not know how or at what time it was brought there. M. David thinks that the reindeer spoken of by Huc, in his 'Voyage en Tartarie,' as living in herds beyond the Koukou-Noor, towards 36° N. lat., may have been identical with the *Mi-lou*.—*Comptes Rendus*, May 14, 1866, pp. 1090–1092.

*On the Pleuronectidæ of the Genus Zeugopterus, and the Structure of their Branchial Cavity.* By J. STEENSTRUP.

In a monograph published in 1835 upon the Pleuronectidæ of the Sound and the Cattegat, M. Gottsche established several new genera which have not in general been accepted by zoologists. One of these genera, *Zeugopterus*, was characterized by the author as presenting a union of the anal fin to the ventrals by a fold of skin starting from the last rays of the latter. M. Krøyer, in his 'Danish Fishes,' has rejected this genus, as being founded upon a character of secondary importance, which can only be regarded as specific. M. Steenstrup agrees with Krøyer as to the value of the character, but nevertheless retains the genus *Zeugopterus*, because the character in question is never isolated, but always presents itself in connexion with others. The most important of the latter is a constant deviation either of the anal or dorsal fin towards the blind side—a deviation which cannot but exert some influence upon the mode of natation of the animal. Moreover the scales of the *Zeugopteri* are roughened with little teeth, and both the outline of the body and the coloration appear to present certain peculiarities common to all the species. But the most evident proof that the group *Zeugopterus* really forms a well-marked natural division, is the discovery by Steenstrup of a very remarkable anatomical peculiarity which is not exemplified in any other Pleuronectid. Thus in the *Zeugopteri* the vertical osseous partition which separates the two branchial cavities from each other is perforated by a large aperture in such a manner that the water can pass freely from one branchial cavity to the other. The physiological bearing of such an arrangement seems very problematical.—*Oversigt, &c., Danske Vidensk. Selsk.* 1865, p. 95; *Bibl. Univ.* May 1866, p. 79.